

In the Claims

We claim:

1. A DHCP efflux protein, which is specific for 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one
5 (DHCP).

2. The protein of Claim 1, which is a transmembrane protein that forms a
cytoplasmic channel specific for efflux transport of DHCP.

10 a 3. The protein of Claim 1, which confers resistance to DHCP.

4. The protein of Claim 1, which protein is from *E. coli*.

15 5. The protein of Claim 1, which protein does not confer cross-resistance to the any
of the following antibiotics: chloramphenicol, spectinomycin and tetracycline.

6. The protein of Claim 1, which protein possesses 13 predicted transmembrane-
spanning α -helices.

20 7. A gene encoding *dep*, the DHCP efflux protein.

8. The *dep* gene of Claim 7, wherein the *dep* gene is from *E. coli*.

25 a 9. The gene of Claim 7, wherein said gene confers resistance to DHCP or a
functionally equivalent compound when present in multiple copies in a bacterial cell.

Sub 17
10. A plasmid comprising the *dep* gene, which plasmid confers expression of multiple copies of the *dep* gene in bacteria cells that have been transformed with said plasmid.

5 a 11. The plasmid of Claim 10, which plasmid confers resistance to DHCP and does not confer cross-resistance to any of the following antibiotics: chloramphenicol, spectinomycin and tetracycline.

Sub 18
12. Bacteria cells containing multiple copies of the plasmid of Claim 10.

10 13. The bacteria cells of Claim 12, which bacteria cells are resistant to DHCP.

a 14. A method which uses the gene of Claim 7 to identify a compound which inhibits efflux activity responsible for resistance to DHCP or a functionally equivalent compound.

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